

REGULAR WEEKLY SESSION-----ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

April 21, 2003

2:00 p.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Monday, April 21, 2003, at 2:00 p.m., the regular meeting hour, in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor Ralph K. Smith presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended.

PRESENT: Council Members M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., C. Nelson Harris, Linda F. Wyatt, William D. Bestpitch, William H. Carder and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by The Reverend Rod Barnett, Coordinator, Counseling and Follow-up, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Smith.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: The Mayor welcomed the Honorable Michel Francois, Mayor, Village of Lessy, Province of Lorraine, France.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion was desired, that item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. He called specific attention to two requests for a Closed Session.

MINUTES: Minutes of the joint meeting of Roanoke City Council and the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors held on Thursday, February 27, 2003; and the regular meeting of Council held on Monday, March 3, 2003, and recessed until Friday, March 7, 2003, were before the body.

Mr. Dowe moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with and that the minutes be approved as recorded. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

COMMITTEES-CITY COUNCIL: A communication from Mayor Ralph K. Smith requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Mr. Dowe moved that Council concur in the request of the Mayor to convene in a Closed Meeting as above described. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-YOUTH: A communication from Marion Vaughn-Howard, Program Manager, Office on Youth, advising of the resignation of Thomas Winn as a member of the Youth Services Citizen Board, was before Council.

Mr. Dowe moved that the resignation be accepted and that the communication be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

OATHS OF OFFICE-PARKS AND RECREATION-COMMITTEES: A report of qualification of Jim Hale as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, for a term ending March 31, 2006, was before Council.

Mr. Dowe moved that the report of qualification be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

BUDGET-COMMITTEES-CITY COUNCIL-CITY GOVERNMENT: A communication from Council Member William D. Bestpitch requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss investing public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(6), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Mr. Dowe moved that Council concur in the request of Council Member Bestpitch to convene in a Closed Meeting as above described. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

BUDGET-CABLE TELEVISION: A communication from Council Member Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., City Council's Representative to the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Committee, advising that the City of Roanoke, the County of Roanoke, and the Town of Vinton jointly operate Roanoke Valley Television (RVTV); initial equipment and facilities for the television station were funded through a \$480,000.00 capital grant from Cox Communications; the station is located at the Jefferson Center and currently employs five full-time staff members; and staff produce and cable cast videos and shows for the local governments and school systems, along with government meetings, on Cox Communications' Channel 3, was before the Council.

It was further advised that on June 8, 1992, Council approved the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Agreement, which requires that the RVTV Operating Budget be approved by the governing bodies of the city, county, and town; funding for the Operating Budget is shared by the three governments, based on the annual proportion of Cox subscribers located in each jurisdiction;

the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Committee approved the RVTV Operating Budget for fiscal year 2003-04 at its April meeting, in the amount of \$273,614.00, which represents a two per cent increase from the current year budget of \$267,885.00.

It was stated that Cox Communications paid a five per cent franchise fee to the local governments in 2001, which amounted to \$1,925,146.00; the local governments have traditionally agreed to allocate up to 20 per cent of the franchise fees collected to the RVTV Operating Budget; for the coming year, that amount would be \$385,029.00, and RVTV's requested budget of \$273,614.00 is \$111,415.00 less than the amount; and Cox calculates the percentage of subscribers in each locality (as of December 31, 2001) as follows:

| <u>Locality</u> | <u>Subscribers</u> | <u>Percentage (%)</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| City of Roanoke | 32,295 | 55 |
| Roanoke County | 23,724 | 40 |
| Town of Vinton | 2,738 | 5 |

It was advised that based on these figures, each locality's contribution to the Operating Budget is as follows:

| <u>Locality</u> | <u>Contribution</u> |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| City of Roanoke | \$150,488.00 |
| Roanoke County | \$109,446.00 |
| Town of Vinton | \$ 13,681.00 |

On behalf of the City's representatives to the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Committee, and as Council's representative to the Committee, Mr. Dowe recommended that Council approve the proposed RVTV budget for fiscal year 2003-04, in the amount of \$273,614.00, with the City's contribution totaling \$150,488.00.

Mr. Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#36281-042103) A RESOLUTION approving the recommendation of the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Committee to approve the annual operating budget for Fiscal Year 2003-2004 for the operation of the regional government and educational access station, Roanoke Valley Television (RVTV, Channel 3), and for the City to provide partial funding.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 67, page 190.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36281-042103. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY PROPERTY-STREETS AND ALLEYS: Steven S. Strauss, representing Structures/Design Build, requested that Council reconsider the matter of vacating right-of-way on Franklin Road, S. W., adjoining Official Tax No. 1300101, which was previously considered by Council at its meeting on Monday, August 19, 2002. He stated that the property has been acquired by Securities Two, L.L.C., a subsidiary of Structures Design/Build and prior to developing the property without abandonment of the right-of-way, it is requested that Council reconsider its August 19 decision to deny the request. He further requested that the matter be heard by the Council at its May 19, 2003 meeting.

There was discussion as to the rationale for reconsidering the matter; whereupon, Mr. Strauss advised that at the August 19 meeting of Council, specific questions were raised as to whether the property would be developed without abandonment of the right-of-way and the value of the property. He stated that if Council authorizes reconsideration of the matter, he will provide more detailed information on proposed improvements, grading of the site, and additional buffers that would be offered as a part of the development plan.

Ms. Wyatt moved that Council reconsider the request of Structures/Design Build. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch.

There was discussion with regard to presentation of a development plan that would show what the proposed development will look like with and without vacation of the right-of-way; whereupon, Mr. Strauss advised that he would work with City Staff to present two different alternatives for review by Council.

Based on the testimony of Mr. Strauss that he planned to submit significantly new or additional information than that which was presented in August 2002, Mr. Harris called for the question which was unanimously adopted.

The motion to reconsider the request was adopted, Council Members Cutler and Carder voted no.

Mr. Bestpitch moved that the matter be referred to the City Planning Commission for study, report and recommendation to Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe.

Mr. William Jopitch, 3215 White Oak Road, S. W., advised that the matter was before the Council in August 2002 and denied by the City Planning Commission and the Council. He stated that if developed, the site will look drastically different from Franklin Road; the dry creek referenced by Mr. Strauss

is not a dry creek, but regularly has water flowing through it, where deer congregate. He advised that Mr. Strauss has every right to cut back the slope because it is developable property, but if his request is approved, the City will be giving him the opportunity to develop the property at far less expense to clear the site and allow for parking. He stated that property owners have asked to review the proposed development plans, however, to date no plans have been submitted. He expressed concern with regard to the appearance of the area along Franklin Road in the vicinity of West Motor Sales, potential problems with erosion, and safety issues relative to children in the area.

Mr. Fred Flowers, 3207 White Oak Road, S. W., advised that residents of White Oak Road offered to purchase the land for \$90,000.00, which was \$5,000.00 more than Mr. Strauss actually paid; at the recommendation of Mr. Strauss residents met with him on two occasions, and offered to purchase the property in order to donate the site to the City, and the asking price then escalated from \$85,000.00 to \$150,000.00. He stated that property owners would like to review building plans showing the difference between developing the property with the requested right-of-way and without the right-of-way. He advised that nothing has changed that should cause Council to reopen the issue, and expressed ongoing opposition to development of the site and to the City's granting of a right-of-way to enhance development of the property.

The motion to refer the matter to the City Planning Commission was unanimously adopted.

BUDGET-ROANOKE VALLEY RESOURCE AUTHORITY: John R. Hubbard, Chief Executive Officer, Roanoke Valley Resource Authority, advised that the proposed budget totals \$8,091,969.00 for fiscal year 2004, representing a 2.2 per cent reduction over the current budget; and the budget includes a \$3.00 per ton increase to Roanoke City, Roanoke County and the Town of Vinton, which is a \$150,000.00 increase to the City based on tonnage receipts. He stated that approximately \$650,000.00 in interest has been lost over the past two years, which was made up with available surplus monies; and two years ago, member jurisdiction tipping fees were reduced from \$50.00 per ton to \$42.00 per ton, and the new rate will reflect \$45.00 per ton.

Mr. Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#36282-042103) A RESOLUTION approving the annual budget of the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority for Fiscal Year 2003-2004, upon certain terms and conditions.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 67, page 191.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36282-042103. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler.

The Mayor addressed the issue of commercial haulers using landfills outside of the Roanoke Valley, and the feasibility of cutting Roanoke Valley Resource Authority tonnage rates to regain their business; whereupon, Mr. Hubbard responded that two major haulers in the Roanoke Valley have their own landfills in Tennessee and Richmond, and if the Roanoke Valley were to regain the business of private haulers and not substantially increase revenues, the life span of the Roanoke Valley facility would be shortened. Therefore, under current conditions, instead of a landfill that originally anticipated a 60-65 year life span, the facility is now looking at 95-100 years, which has allowed the Roanoke Valley to expand the project over a longer period of time and decrease costs; and during that period of time, surplus monies totaling approximately \$6 million have been saved which has financed the reduction to Roanoke City and Roanoke County over the past three years.

Mr. Cutler inquired about the relationship between citizen participation in the City's recycling program and economic liability to the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority. He also inquired as to continuing costs, if any, to the Resource Authority in connection with the closed landfill near Explore Park.

Mr. Hubbard responded that the Resource Authority accepted responsibility for the closed landfill and will maintain funds from the operation for a 30 year period after closing, which is required by State law; no offers have been received to lease the landfill, other than to potentially develop a gas system that could generate electricity, however, the project failed due to the revenue to be gained from the sale of electricity to AEP that made it financially not feasible, and no proposals to lease the area have been received due to the danger associated with gas generation in a closed landfill. He stated that recycling is promoted by the Resource Authority, with approximately ten per cent of refuse deposited at the facility being recycled; and the City's leaf recycling program generates approximately 3,000 tons per year, totaling \$75,000.00 per annum, at approximately \$1.00 per ton on the tipping fee.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 36282-042103 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS:

BUDGET: At the request of the City Manager, Barry L. Key, Budget Administrator, presented the following highlights of the City's fiscal year 2004 budget.

The fiscal year 2004 budget is balanced with anticipated revenues and expenditures of \$204.7 million; while this total represents an \$11.1 million dollar increase over fiscal year 2003, a large portion of the increase is attributed to a budgetary reclassification of "recovered costs" expenditures to revenues to comply with an audit recommendation, resulting in a \$4.4 million "artificial" increase in revenues; and General Fund revenues are actually expected to increase \$6.7 million, or 3.5 per cent, which is a dramatic improvement over the 1.2 per cent increase realized in fiscal year 2003.

Local revenues again lead the way in terms of Roanoke's anticipated revenue growth with an expected increase of almost \$6.3 million, or 4.2 per cent, a significant improvement over the 1.9 per cent growth rate for fiscal year 2003; and intergovernmental, or State revenue is predicted to decrease for the second year in a row; during the past five fiscal years, State revenues have increased on an average of 4.5 per cent per year; and this same level of growth for fiscal year 2004 would result in a \$2.1 million increase instead of the almost \$100,000.00 decrease, representing a \$2.2 million dollar negative impact on Roanoke's budget.

The following new revenue initiatives are being recommended that will generate \$563,000.00 in additional local revenue to help offset increased local expenditures resulting from State revenue reductions:

- An increase in animal impoundment and boarding fees at the SPCA to help offset the increased cost of the Regional SPCA facility;
- An increase in library copier fees to provide improved copying equipment for the public at the library branches;

•An increase in Central Business District Solid Waste Collection fees to more fully recover the cost of providing more than one free collection per week, as provided with residential solid waste collection service; and discontinuation of commercial collection outside the Central Business District more than once per week due to higher costs and the availability of service from private vendors.

•A new Admissions Tax rate structure that will levy a 9 per cent tax rate for events held at the Civic Center and Stadium/Amphitheatre and a 5.5 per cent rate for events held at facilities not owned by the City.

•A 55 cents per month increase in the E911 tax rate to \$2.00 per line per month to more fully recover the operating cost of the E911 Center and to provide additional staff to handle wireless 911 calls as mandated by the State but not fully funded - a \$3.00 tax rate would be required to fully fund the total cost of the Center.

•A new Short-term Rental Tax of one per cent of gross proceeds to offset a tax system inequity in the State Code whereby short-term rental businesses in localities like Roanoke pay no personal property tax on business property owned for short-term rental purposes.

Schools will receive almost \$2.2 million in additional local funding as its share of local tax revenues per the existing revenue sharing formula; the total school budget will increase \$3.4 million or 3.2 per cent; the budget adopted by the School Board in March will provide an average teacher salary increase of 2.3 per cent, additional funding for employee health insurance premiums, and additional debt service capacity funding for capital improvement projects at both high schools, funding has been provided for an after-school program at Ruffner Middle School previously funded by a grant and for an increase in the daily pay rate for long-term substitute teachers; additional budget adjustments will be made by the School Board when it meets to consider the additional local funding now being recommended, an increase of \$432,000.00 over the local revenue planning figure provided to the School administration in December.

Employee compensation and benefits include:

•\$3.1 million in funding is recommended to keep City employees' compensation and benefits as competitive as possible in today's difficult economic times; a 2.25 per cent of base pay merit increase is recommended and additional funding is provided to fund a significant increase in employee retirement contributions due to reduced investment performance and the anticipated cost of employee health insurance.

Two new compensation initiatives are recommended:

•A major restructuring of labor and grades job classifications affecting approximately 236 employee positions to enhance the competitiveness of starting and average salaries for these positions and reduce the above average turnover rate.

•A new Community Policing Specialist Program in the Police Department for Police Officers who complete a required training component and a required community activity participation component will be eligible to receive a two per cent increase in pay.

A small amount of funding for a new employee benefit that will allow employees an option to staying home from work when their children are ill; at least one Roanoke agency now offers sick child care for individuals with children having mild illnesses or injuries - the total cost of the service includes a registration fee and daily service fee; and funding is recommended to help cost-share this expense with employees to help them be as productive as possible when their children are ill.

Additional funding of \$2.3 million is recommended for cash-funded capital projects, debt service, equipment replacement and maintenance requirements to:

•Continue providing additional debt service funding as part of a multiple plan to budget an additional \$570,000.00 each fiscal year to build future capacity for bonds to support the Capital Improvement Program;

•Begin restoration of adequate cash funding in the operating budget by fiscal year 2007 for fleet equipment replacement, maintenance of City facilities, paving of City streets, and for technology enhancements;

- Provide additional cash funding for the Fire-EMS Facility Improvement Project to strategically locate new facilities in the City and the continuing costs of compliance with the City's National Pollutant Discharge Eliminating System Permit; and

- Provide partial funding for the mid-year relocation of the Social Services Department to the Civic Mall complex on Williamson Road.

Use of available debt service funding in fiscal year 2004 to redeem \$2.8 million in outstanding bonds that were issued previously for the Century Station Parking Garage and bear a high interest rate; and the Parking Fund will realize a \$360,000.00 positive cash flow through this prudent fiscal strategy that can be used for parking facility maintenance and future capital projects.

Almost \$1.1 million is budgeted for nondiscretionary expenditure increases, including:

- Roanoke's share of the regional SPCA facility scheduled to open later this year; and

- Local cost of Medicaid services provided for at-risk youth through the Comprehensive Services Act Program - localities are now required by the State to use Medicaid-approved services first, if available, and must fund the local cost of such services.

Increases will be experienced for:

- Food and medical care provided to an increased number of inmates in the Roanoke City Jail;

- Motor fuels due to instability in the global oil market;

- Per diem costs for Roanoke youth assigned to the Roanoke Valley Detention Center because of a 15 per cent reduction in State funding for the Center;

- Tipping fees at the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority will increase \$3.00 per ton due to diminished investment performance and reduced solid waste tonnage coming to the facility;

- An increased local subsidy for the Greater Roanoke Transit Company due to increased employee health and liability insurance costs and increased motor fuels costs; and

- Snow removal expenses based on recent snowfall experience.

\$431,000.00 is budgeted for a number of new or enhanced services that will directly benefit Roanoke's citizens; i.e.:

- A two per cent increase in the budgeted amounts for Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Total Action Against Poverty, the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service and an 11.5 per cent increase in funding for the Roanoke Arts Commission and Human Services Committee for distribution to community cultural and human service agencies, some of which have been fiscally impacted by the new HUD funding policy adopted last year.

- Funding to replace an additional 200 trees per year - 400 trees can now be replaced annually as part of the City's reforestation program to mitigate any further decline in the City's tree canopy.

Additional funding is also recommended to:

- Begin a multi-year funding initiative for enhanced maintenance of athletic fields in City parks;

- Install an additional 120 street lights consistent with community lighting standards;

- Cut and clean 250 property parcels annually as part of the City's Weed and Trash Abatement Program when property owners do not comply with property maintenance standards;

- Expand the use of growth regulator chemicals on turf grass in main street corridors to maintain a neater appearance in these community entranceways and reduce mowing efforts;

- Expand the number of operating hours at the Mill Mountain Discovery Center - this important City gateway facility off the Blue Ridge Parkway will be open seven days per week year round; and

- Operate the new Southeast Police Substation.

Four additional staff positions are recommended to:

- Handle Wireless 911 calls as mandated by the State but not adequately funded;

- Develop a structured volunteer program in City government that will coordinate and harness community talent to help provide high levels of service for citizens during a period of diminished resources;

- Oversee the newly created fleet equipment pool to improve the overall effectiveness of the City's fleet by minimizing the number of vehicles required - staff initiatives this past year have already eliminated 99 pieces of equipment from the fleet; and

- Provide a stronger purchasing contract administration system and enhanced procurement planning and scheduling to help ensure that the City is purchasing goods and services at the lowest cost possible.

To balance the fiscal year 2004 budget, \$2.3 million in budget reductions were made:

- 13 positions will be eliminated and an additional 25 positions will be held vacant and not filled, affecting 18 separate departments or divisions of City government;

- Overtime expense has been reduced 20 per cent, organization-wide, with the new overtime policy implemented in fiscal year 2003 to award overtime based on hours worked; and

- Expenses for temporary employees have been reduced.

The above reductions will result in the following program reductions:

- A reduction of ten operational days at each swimming pool based on low attendance;

- Elimination of the Midnight Basketball Program;
- Alleys that are no longer needed for primary access by property owners or for solid waste collection will no longer be maintained with City forces - maintenance responsibility for such alleys will fall to adjacent property owners; and
- Operating hours at Norwich Center will be reduced from 21 hours to 14 hours weekly.

A number of new initiatives are recommended in several proprietary funds:

- The Civic Facilities Fund includes additional revenues necessary to begin repayment of debt on \$14.3 million in bonds to be issued later this year for Phase II of improvements to the Civic Center, including the construction of a 45,000 square foot exhibit hall; these additional revenues include proceeds from the Admissions Tax rate increase plus an increase in the Facility Surcharge Fee per ticket.
- The Parking Fund will experience a \$360,000.00 positive cash flow because of the refunding of Century Station Parking Garage bonds, which funding, along with additional revenues from a recommended increase in parking fees, will be used to provide much needed maintenance for a number of parking structures and will be available in future years for parking system capital improvements.
- The Water Fund includes additional funding from the recent water rate increase for pursuing regional water system inter connections and water system infrastructure improvements.
- The Water Pollution Control Fund includes additional funding necessary for the City's share of the cost of the wet weather capacity improvement project at the Water Pollution Control Plant - the source of funding for this project is a recommended 20 per cent increase in sewer rates, effective July 1, 2003, and an additional 15 per cent increase, effective July 1, 2004; and revenues from this rate increase would provide funding for future sewer system infrastructure improvements as well.

Seven new projects are recommended for inclusion in the Capital Improvement Program:

- Renovations to the Municipal North Complex after relocation of the Social Services Department, to be cash funded at a cost of \$2 million dollars in fiscal year 2005;**
- Phase II of improvements to the Public Works Service Center, to be cash funded at a cost of \$1 million in fiscal year 2005;**
- Phase I of the Stormwater Management Program to begin addressing over \$50 million in identified storm drainage projects, to be funded for an \$11 million bond issue in fiscal year 2005 requiring the levy of a new stormwater management fee for debt repayment;**
- Construction of a new parking garage in the Church Avenue West area, to be funded from a \$7.2 million bond issue in fiscal year 2006 - the positive cash flow from the refunding of Century Station Parking Garage bonds will be combined with increased parking rates system-wide to fund debt repayment;**
- Phase V of improvements at the Roanoke Center for Industry and Technology to make Site E available for future development, to be cash funded at a cost of \$1.75 million in fiscal year 2006;**
- Additional local funding projected to be needed for the Roanoke River Flood Reduction Project by fiscal year 2007, requiring a \$4.5 million bond issue; and**
- Phase II of property acquisition in the South Jefferson Redevelopment area to facilitate continuing development of the Riverside Centre for resale of property in the redevelopment area.**

In conclusion, Mr. Key advised that as witnessed in the past 20 months, a great deal can happen in a short period of time to negatively impact the City's fiscal resources and effectively side-track, if not de-rail, even the best set of plans; the good news is that the City has a fiscal roadmap linked to Council's strategic plan to help guide and to keep the City on track; the long-range financial planning effort begun by Council this year should serve the City well for the future as it continues to update the plan on an annual basis, and continue to make the hard fiscal decisions necessary to help Roanoke to achieve its desired

future. He stated that the City has managed to close the fiscal gap for fiscal year 2004, and, in doing so, has narrowed the fiscal gap remaining in fiscal years 2005 - 2007, but the City still faces a sizeable financial challenge in the coming years.

Mr. E. Duane Howard, 508 Walnut Avenue, S. W., expressed concern with regard to the proposed increase in the E-911 fee. He referred to approximately \$20 worth of charges and fees on his telephone bill that are not directly related to the actual telephone service; the proposed increase on 911 calls affects the disadvantaged and those on fixed incomes more than any other citizens; and with excessive taxes and fees, telephone service has become unaffordable. He asked that Council give serious consideration to not increasing the E-911 tax and look for other ways to create additional revenue for the City.

Mr. Carder called attention to the progress made by the Virginia First Cities Coalition which is composed of 15 of the more fiscally stressed, older urban areas of the Commonwealth of Virginia. He commended the City on putting its fiscal house in order and doing creative things which will lead to additional revenues. He advised that the State has cut funding to localities and is pushing localities to fund the State's shortfalls, but it is time for the State to put its fiscal house in order. He added that the citizens of the City of Roanoke and the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia must understand what is going on and the challenges facing older urban areas which are more fiscally stressed than counties. He suggested that the State step up to the plate next year and begin to fund some of its basic responsibilities. He congratulated City staff on preparing a creative budget for fiscal year 2004, and advised that the City is heading in the right direction, revenues look positive, but the City cannot continue to make up the State's shortfalls.

Without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that the briefing would be received and filed.

ANIMALS/INSECTS: The City Manager introduced Michael W. Quesenberry and Paul J. Truntich, staff to the Wild Life Task Force, for a briefing on deer population management.

Officer Quesenberry advised that the first meeting of the City's Wildlife Task Force was held on February 27, 2002, and a public forum was held on June 27, 2002, to discuss deer conflicts within the City of Roanoke; in August, 2002, Wildlife Task Force Majority and Minority reports were submitted to the City Manager and on November 6, 2002, a final meeting was held of the Task Force to discuss recommendations from issued reports.

The following Task Force recommendations were presented:

- Modify ordinance to allow for electric fences**
- Enact an ordinance making it unlawful to intentionally feed wild animals**
- Provide education outreach to citizens regarding the deer issue**
- Assign more City staff to address deer and wildlife management programs**
- Request additional assistance of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in managing the City's deer issue**
- Cull the deer herd in a safe, efficient and humane manner.**

On January 21, 2003, Council received a communication from the City Manager detailing the Wildlife Task Force's recommendations, City staff recommended consultation with a wildlife management company, and White Buffalo, Inc., a nonprofit wildlife management and research organization, was contacted to conduct the recommended assessment.

White Buffalo's assessment included a site visit on March 24 - 25, 2003, including representatives of City Council, the Police Department, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and City staff, and areas assessed included Blue Hills Industrial Park, Fishburn Park, the former Police Department Firing Range and various conflict locations in South Roanoke.

White Buffalo identified six population reduction options: controlled hunting, professional sharpshooting, capture/relocation/capture/euthanasia, fertility control and no action. The capture/relocation option is inefficient and inhumane at a cost of \$600.00-\$800.00 per deer; the capture/euthanasia option is also inefficient and inhumane at a minimum cost of \$400.00 per deer; and fertility control will also not be feasible due to Roanoke's large land area. If selected, White Buffalo advised that bowhunting would be a safer alternative to hunting with firearms, the least expensive option, the City would administer and assume liability, and bowhunting is less efficient than using firearms with limited access issues. Professional sharpshooting can be conducted in an efficient and humane manner,

costs are estimated at \$200.00 - \$300.00 per deer plus meat processing fees, all meat would be available to be donated to Hunters for the Hungry or similar programs, a program duration of two to four weeks beginning in January/February, 2004; the baiting strategy requires additional research; and sharpshooting performed by off-duty police officers would require purchase of additional equipment, liability remains with the City, the program is more involved than initially perceived, and White Buffalo does not train local law enforcement.

With no intervention, populations will either remain stable or slowly increase over time; once initiated, deer population maintenance activities must be conducted in ensuing years after initial reductions; and failure to conduct maintenance activities will result in populations returning to initial densities.

Olin Melchionia, Co-Chair, Wildlife Task Force, advised that the majority of the Task Force agreed that the issue of deer in the City of Roanoke will eventually have to be dealt with, which is a cultural issue. He called attention to problems with damaged shrubbery, animal waste on lawns, and browse lines up to four to six feet. He advised that the Wild Life Task Force supports culling of the herd as an option.

Herbert Berding, 2814 South Jefferson Street, member of the Wild Life Task Force, advised that the deer population in Roanoke has grown over the last three years, which is a problem that not only exists in Roanoke but throughout the United States. He stated that the deer population can double in seven years, which has already happened in Roanoke; and several accidents have occurred as a result of Roanoke's deer population. He stated that it is incumbent upon City government to protect the property of Roanoke's citizens, and called attention to the environmental impact created by the deer population, such as overgrazing, over browsing, loss of habitat for all shrub nesting birds and wild life, destruction to the point of extinction in certain areas of the southeastern United States of wild flowers, and an increase in disease as a result of deer tick and feces. He encouraged the City to act on the deer issue by culling the deer population, and advised that other methods such as transporting deer from one area to another and birth control are costly, ineffective and unreliable methods to address the problem.

Discussion by Council:

Impact of deer over population in an urban area, loss of landscaping, problems associated with loss of bird nesting habitat, loss of rare native plant species, spreading of disease, and vehicle accidents.

Sharp shooting is the most efficient and humane way of dealing with the problem over a short period of time.

Any ordinance should be drafted to clarify that bird feeding is not prohibited.

It will be necessary to use protective locations that would not be in the line of site of any dwelling, without the express written permission of the resident, owner of the property, etc.

Sharp shooters operate from a stand 25 - 35 feet in the air, shooting down against a mound of earth.

There would be an advantage to using hunting organizations in the Roanoke Valley with the proper credentials to address the issue, in accordance with established criteria by the City.

The City Manager was requested to submit her recommendation; whereupon, on the behalf of the City Manager, Mr. Truntich advised that if Council, as a whole, determines that the City of Roanoke has reached its cultural capacity in terms of addressing the deer conflict issue, the City Manager recommends proceeding with the sharp shooting alternative, whether it be by an outside consultant, an internal body, or a third party local hunting group.

There was discussion with regard to the number of deer that need to be harvested annually; whereupon, the City Manager advised that the City has no statistical numbers reflecting the exact deer population, statistics are available that show the rate of accidents involving deer, but no statistics are available indicating the incident of property damage. She stated that City staff is basing its recommendation on meetings, public forums, citizen complaints, etc., and it appears that in some areas of the City the cultural capacity for addressing the deer over population issue has been reached.

During a discussion of the matter, it was explained that only accident data as reported to the Police Department is available, a considerable amount of damage goes unreported at private residences where shrubbery, trees, or other foliage is damaged; and the City is not in a position to produce hard data that relates to a particular accident threshold in terms of numbers or losses, which is the reason it is important to rely on the term "cultural threshold of tolerance or intolerance".

The City Manager advised that if Council is convinced that it is time to take action, City staff recommends the sharp shooter approach which will involve consultation with the City Attorney to address liability issues.

The following statistics on deer-related accidents were reported:

**1999 - 22
2000 - 14
2001 - 28
2002 - 31**

During a discussion of the recommendation, some members of Council expressed concern that there should be a comparison of measures and standards enacted by other communities, and a determination should be made as to whether Roanoke's accident ratio is comparable to other communities that have chosen this course of action. Disappointment was expressed that the consultant and the City administration have spent money, taken time, involved citizens, and are now advising that it is up to the Council to determine whether the City of Roanoke has reached a cultural tolerance or intolerance. It was stated that Council should have received more information and a firm recommendation from the City Manager, as opposed to citizen complaints about damaged shrubbery, etc., and there should be more natural conversation networks throughout the Roanoke community.

Mr. Cutler moved that the City manager be instructed to proceed with a deer population reduction program for the City of Roanoke and submit a detailed plan of action to the Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and unanimously adopted.

TREES: The City Manager introduced a briefing on the City's Urban Forestry Plan.

Helen Smythers, Urban Forestry Planner, presented the following highlights of the Plan.

Vision 2001-2002 states that, "Trees and other vegetation represent both an environmental resource and an important landscape feature in the quality of life in the City."

The Roanoke Valley's tree canopy decreased from 40 per cent in 1973 to 35 per cent in 1997.

The City of Roanoke tree canopy was identified as 32 per cent in 1997.

The Comprehensive Plan also states that, "Maintaining and increasing the City's tree canopy will have a beneficial impact on air quality, stormwater control, noise levels, temperature and visual appearance."

Trees provide canopy to improve fish and wildlife habitat, absorb pollution, reduce soil erosion, increase tourism, provide shade and reduce energy costs; Roanoke's trees absorb more than 948,000 pounds of pollutants from the air each year, Roanoke's trees have a stormwater retention capacity of more than 64 million cubic feet. Trees add unity, identity, and pride to the community, increase property values, and provide buffers from harsh urban landscapes.

The tree canopy goal for a healthy community is 40 per cent of land area and the City of Roanoke's tree canopy is 32 per cent of land area; Roanoke's urban forestry staff plants 200 trees per year and removes 40 trees per year due to damage or disease and to stop the annual net loss, it will be necessary to plant 400 trees per year instead of 200.

The City's goal is to increase the City's tree canopy from 32 per cent to 40 per cent, a 25 per cent increase is needed, and there are currently 17,000 street and park trees. To achieve a 25 per cent street and park tree increase, 825 trees a year for the next ten years will need to be planted.

There is a need for school, neighborhood and interest group participation; funding through the City, grants, and business and community partnerships; citizen donations to plant trees in honor or memory of loved ones, or to celebrate special events; and site prioritization (traffic corridors, residential areas, gateways and parks).

Recommendations:

- Update the 1956 public tree ordinance**
- Continue to maintain plant and protect City trees using national standards**
- Interdepartmental cooperation (example: consult with Engineering on increasing the tree canopy with the Roanoke River Project)**
- Make sure trees are part of water, sewer and road improvements**
- Use community-based incentives and educational programs to encourage every citizen to plant one tree in the next ten years**

- Use the Zoning Ordinance to preserve more trees during development, encourage use of native species and increase tree canopy (for example, trees in parking lots)

- Large areas of forested land should be studied further and the CITYgreen software and the City's GIS can help understand the characteristics of these sites

- A budget request has been made for the purchase and planting of more trees; a grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry can fund needed staff; the plan identifies stakeholders and time frames for implementation and accountability; and community groups and partners stand ready to help.

Council Member Bestpitch spoke in support of the recommendation to increase the replacement of trees that are removed from public lands from 200 to 400 annually, and citizen donations to plant trees in honor or memory of loved ones, or to celebrate special events by purchasing and donating a tree for planting on public property, with a commemorative plaque or designation. He volunteered to donate the first tree upon initiation of the program in memory of a loved one.

There being no further discussion, without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that the briefing would be received and filed.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

BUDGET-CITY COUNCIL: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Budget Study Calendar previously adopted by Council for fiscal year 2003-04 requires that two special meetings be held:

May 1, 2003 at 7 p.m. – Public Hearing on the Recommended Fiscal Year 2003-04 City Budget, the Recommended Fiscal Year 2003-04 HUD Budget, and various local tax rates and fees

May 12, 2003 at 9 a.m. - Adoption of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2003-04 Budget and approval of required budget ordinances and resolutions necessary for the proper administration of the budget

It was further advised that Section 10 of the Roanoke City Charter requires that Council officially call these special meetings at the dates and times specified; therefore, the City Manager recommended that Council authorize Special Meetings to be held on May 1, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. and May 12, 2003, at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Carder offered the following resolution:

(#36283-042103) A RESOLUTION establishing the dates and times for two Special Meetings of the Council of the City of Roanoke.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 67, page 192.)

Mr. Carder moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36283-042103. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

DONATIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS-CITY PROPERTY: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the owner of property located at the corner of Shenandoah Avenue and Westside Boulevard, Stevens Farm Trust, has offered to donate to the City an adjacent parcel of land containing approximately .6 acre of land; the property is located to the south of Strauss Park and would extend Strauss Park to the adjacent roadway; the property is also wooded and is in keeping with the City's Urban Forestry Plan to maintain as much tree canopy as possible, city wide; if the land were to be developed, trees would most surely be removed; and estimated additional maintenance costs are minimal.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to accept the donation of property identified as Official Tax No. 2732301, subject to satisfactory environmental site inspection, and to execute any and all documents, to be approved as to form by the City Attorney, which are necessary to effect a transfer.

Mr. Cutler offered the following resolution:

(#36284-042103) A RESOLUTION accepting the donation of a .6 acre parcel of property, located at the corner of Shenandoah Avenue and Westside Boulevard, identified by Tax Map No. 2732301, from the Stevens Farm Trust, and expressing appreciation for such donation.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 67, page 194.)

Mr. Cutler moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36284-042103. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT-BUDGET-DRUGS/SUBSTANCE ABUSE: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that in 1991, the Virginia General Assembly passed State legislation allowing local law enforcement to seize and have forfeited property connected with illegal narcotics distribution; the law also makes it possible for police departments to receive proceeds from forfeited properties; and application for an equitable share of the property seized by local law enforcement must be made to the Department of Criminal Justice Services, Forfeited Asset Sharing Program, and certified by the Chief of Police.

It was further advised that property, including funds shared with State and local agencies, may be used only for law enforcement purposes; program requirements mandate that funds be placed in an interest bearing account and interest earned will be used in accordance with program guidelines; and revenues totaling \$13,274.00 have been collected and are available for appropriation in Grant Fund Account Nos. 035-640-3302-3300 and 035-640-3302-3299.

It was explained that in 1986, Congress authorized the transfer of certain Federally forfeited property to State and local law enforcement agencies that participated in investigation and seizure of the property; application for an equitable share of property seized by local law enforcement must be made to the U. S. Department of Justice and certified by the City Attorney; and the property, including funds shared with State and local agencies, may be used only for the purpose stated in the application, i.e., narcotics investigations related to law enforcement; participation in federally forfeited property enhances the effectiveness of narcotics investigations by providing necessary investigations equipment and investigative funds, offsetting the costs that would otherwise have to be borne by the City's taxpayers; the Police Department receives funds periodically from the Federal Government's Asset Sharing Program, and grant requirements state that the funds must be placed in an interest bearing

account, with interest earned be used in accordance with program guidelines; and revenues totaling \$11,793.00 have been collected and are available for appropriation in the Grant Fund, Account Nos. 035-640-3304-3305 and 035-640-3304-3306.

The City Manager recommended that Council appropriate \$13,274.00 to the Grant Fund, Overtime Wages, Account No. 035-640-3302-1003, and increase the Grant Fund revenue estimate for Account No. 035-640-3302-3300 by \$13,004.00 and Account No. 035-640-3302-3299 by \$270.00; and appropriate \$11,793.00 to the Grant Fund account for Investigations and Rewards, Account No. 035-640-3304-2150, and increase the Grant Fund revenue estimate for Account No. 035-640-3304-3305 by \$11,736.00 and Account No. 035-640-3304-3306 by \$57.00.

Mr. Bestpitch offered the following budget ordinance:

(#36285-042103) AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain certain sections of the 2002-2003 Grant Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 67, page 195.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36285-042103. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

BUDGET-SCHOOLS-CMERP: A communication from the Roanoke City School Board requesting appropriation of \$1,558,495.00 in Capital Maintenance and Equipment Replacement Funds for the following, was before Council.

replacement of school copier equipment and administrative technology equipment,

purchase of site-based instructional technology equipment,

replacement of six school buses,

purchase of a special education transportation vehicle,

purchase of facility maintenance equipment, and improvements to the Human Resources Office, and

additional construction cost of the transportation facility.

A report of the Director of Finance recommending that Council concur in the request of the School Board, was also before the body.

Mr. Dowe offered the following budget ordinance:

(#36286-042103) AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain certain sections of the 2002-2003 School Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 67, page 196.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36286-042103. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: NONE

MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

CITY COUNCIL: As a result of the Council's Closed Session which was held earlier in the day, the Mayor announced that it is the unanimous consensus of the Council that Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., will be appointed in the near future as a Member of the Roanoke City Council, to fill the unexpired term of William H. Carder, ending June 30, 2004, upon receipt of Mr. Carder's formal resignation, and Mr. Fitzpatrick is expected to take his seat on the Council at the regular meeting on Monday, May 19, 2003.

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT-COUNCIL: The Mayor displayed an Easter greeting card from former Council Member and Mrs. Robert A. Garland which included a photograph of the Garland family in 1953. He expressed appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Garland for all they have done for the City of Roanoke, and extended belated Easter greetings to all citizens of the Star City.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard, and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for any necessary and appropriate response, recommendation or report to Council.

REFUSE COLLECTION: Mr. David Gresham, 5260 Cross Bow Circle, Roanoke County, expressed concern with regard to debris along the banks of the Roanoke River and debris in trees, which is an eye sore in an area that serves as a community focal point.

ARMORY/STADIUM-SPECIAL EVENTS: Mr. Chris Craft, 1501 East Gate Avenue, N. E., encouraged Council Members and citizens of Roanoke to attend the Franklin Graham, Southwest Virginia Festival, to be held on May 2 – 4, 2003, at the City of Salem Stadium.

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT-CITY COUNCIL: Mr. E. Duane Howard, 508 Walnut Avenue, S. W., commended the Members of Council upon its impending election of Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., to fill the unexpired term of Council Member William H. Carder.

COMPLAINTS-PARKS AND RECREATION-TREES: Mr. E. Duane Howard, 508 Walnut Avenue, S. W., called attention to parked vehicles on the grounds of Jackson Park, and requested that the City Manager address the matter before further damage is done to ground cover and historic trees.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

CITY GOVERNMENT-NEWSPAPERS: The City Manager presented copy of the *Roanoke Citizen Magazine* which will be delivered to the homes of Roanoke's citizens, and advised that the magazine is an important edition in terms of detailing the City of Roanoke's excellence as a community.

At 5:20 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess for two closed sessions.

At 6:00 p.m., the meeting reconvened in the Council Chamber, with Mayor Smith presiding and all Members of the Council in attendance, except Council Members Carder, Harris and Wyatt.

COUNCIL: With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Mr. Bestpitch moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only

such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Bestpitch and Mayor Smith-----4.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Members Carder, Harris and Wyatt were not present when the vote was recorded.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-JUVENILE CORRECTION FACILITIES:
The Mayor advised that there is a vacancy on the Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center Commission, to fill the unexpired term of Glenn D. Radcliffe, resigned, ending June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. Bestpitch placed in nomination the name of Vickie L. Price, Acting Director of Social Services.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Price was appointed as a member to the Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center Commission, to fill the unexpired term of Glenn D. Radcliffe, resigned, ending June 30, 2006, by the following vote:

FOR MS. PRICE: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Bestpitch and Mayor Smith-----4.

(Council Members Carder, Harris and Wyatt were not present when the vote was recorded.)

At 6:05 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess until 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber.

At 7:00 p.m., on Monday, April 21, 2003, the Council meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor Ralph K. Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., C. Nelson Harris, Linda F. Wyatt, William D. Bestpitch, William H. Carder and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The invocation was delivered by Vice-Mayor Harris.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Smith.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The Mayor advised that Shining Star Awards are presented to persons who go above and beyond the call of duty to be of service to their fellowman and woman and to their community; and on behalf of the Members of Council, he was pleased to present awards to Ms. Vicki Wert and Mr. Alan Gleiner.

The Mayor stated that Ms. Wert, a teacher at Patrick Henry High School, has great teaching skills and a passion for helping others; her method of teaching may seem odd to others, but those who encounter her on a daily basis know the true benefits of having a teacher like her. All of her students are eager to attend class, they pay attention to details, and she is an inspiration to others.

The Mayor advised that Mr. Gleiner has been involved in transportation planning issues in the Roanoke Valley for many years, he is a producer at WDBJ-TV - Channel 7 and graciously volunteered his time, talent and community contacts to provide a permanent record of the visit to Roanoke by Ian Lockwood, a nationally recognized traffic consultant. He stated that because of Mr. Gleiner's contribution, the citizens of Roanoke will be able to better understand the benefits of traffic calming and City staff will be able to renew their skills on how to implement changes in the City of Roanoke.

PROCLAMATIONS-BICYCLIST: The Mayor presented a Proclamation declaring the month of May 2003 as Bike Month.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

SCHOOLS: Pursuant to Section 9-20.1 Public hearing before appointment of School Board Members, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 21, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to receive the views of citizens with regard to School Board applicants, the matter was before the body.

Advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, April 11, 2003, and in *The Roanoke Tribune* on Thursday, April 17, 2003.

The Mayor advised that on July 1, 2003, there will be three vacancies on the Roanoke City School Board for terms ending June 30, 2006, and at its meeting on Monday, April 7, 2003, Council selected the following persons to receive the public interview on Thursday, April 24, 2003, commencing at 4:30 p.m., in the City Council Chamber:

**Dennis Binns
F. B. Webster Day
Tiffany M. Johnson
Gloria P. Manns
Kathy G. Stockburger
David B. Trinkle**

The Mayor inquired if there were persons in attendance who would like to speak to the candidacy of the above listed applicants; whereupon, the following persons spoke:

Ms. Carol Brosh, 2250 Westover Avenue, S. W., spoke in support of the candidacy of F. B. Webster Day, who has been a great asset to the School Board. She stated that Mr. Day is committed to public schooling as evidenced by the fact that he has three sons who have, or are currently, attending public schools in Roanoke City; he is an insightful, critical thinker who asks the right questions, he does his homework on issues, he knows how to get to the crux of a problem, he is a creative thinker who offers workable and practical solutions, he is fair and open minded when considering the plight and opinions of others, he understands the fiscal as well as the scholastic implications of decisions that come before the School Board, and he is his own person and not afraid to ask tough questions or make difficult decisions. She advised that Mr. Day is the kind of person who is needed on Roanoke's School Board and urged that he be reappointed for a full three year term of office.

Mr. Sherman Lea, 1638 Lonna Drive, N. W., spoke in support of the candidacy of F. B. Webster Day. He advised that having previously served on the School Board, he worked with Mr. Day on a number of important issues. He stated that Mr. Day is a committed, dedicated and knowledgeable School Board member; public education is in a critical stage throughout the country; school boards are being called upon to make critical decisions, and in doing so it is incumbent upon governing bodies to appoint School Board members who are good critical thinkers. He called attention to the need to continue to upgrade salaries for all school employees, upgrading Roanoke's two high schools, a seventh period day for the high schools, and school safety, all of which are important issues that school boards across the country are facing. He referred to past efforts of Mr. Day involving school safety, the student drop out rate, and upgrading teacher salaries, and encouraged Council to reappoint Mr. Day to a full three year term of office on the School Board.

Ms. Karen Pillis, 2719 Richelieu Avenue, S. W., endorsed the candidacy of Kathy Stockburger in order to ensure that Roanoke's public schools continue to grow and to improve during this time of economic challenge. She advised that Ms. Stockburger was educated in the Roanoke City Public Schools, her children attended Roanoke City schools where they grew and matured, both through a

strong academic curriculum and through a wide variety of extra curricular activities; Ms. Stockburger has been active in her children's schools, Parent Teacher Associations and governing and advisory boards; she volunteers for both classroom and committee work; she has the ability to listen to many sides of an issue, sift through the conflicting data, and make informed thoughtful consensus building decisions; she possesses great leadership skills as demonstrated through her professional life and her service to the community; her leadership ability is derived not just from her ability to form consensus, but also from the amount of positive proactive energy she brings to each endeavor; and her greatest asset is a clear understanding of the need for public schools to serve all children in the City of Roanoke with the same standards of excellence.

Mr. George Anderson, 2412 Stanley Avenue, S. E., endorsed the candidacy of Kathy Stockburger as an exceptionally qualified candidate for the School Board. He advised that he has worked with Ms. Stockburger in various capacities when she chaired and served on committees, she has been an effective teacher, a follower, and a leader; she exhibits exceptional organizational abilities and sensitivity; she assisted her church with an effective strategic plan; and her work as a consultant for businesses and agencies, public and private, and her experience in mediation and conflict resolution, as well as strategic planning, have earned for her a reputation as someone who can bring people together with divergent views and with conflict to overcome difficulties, establish consensus, and establish direction. He stated that Ms. Stockburger has a passion to help all children in the public school system, particularly those who are disadvantaged; therefore, she would be an exceptional candidate for the School Board.

Ms. Arlene Riley, 2615 Stanley Avenue, S. E., endorsed the candidacy of Kathy Stockburger to the Roanoke City School Board. She advised that Ms. Stockburger is a powerful advocate for Roanoke's children and its schools; and she would bring the following strengths to the School Board: organizational skills, leadership experience and skills, conflict resolution skills, and personal dedication and commitment to Roanoke's schools.

Anita Price, 3101 Willow Road, N. W., President of the Roanoke Education Association (REA), representing approximately 700 educators of Roanoke City public schools, endorsed the candidacy of Gloria Manns and Kathy Stockburger. She advised that an objective of the REA is to advocate for children and for public education, and to aid in the decision making process regarding educational issues; therefore, the REA believes that these two candidates would be excellent assets to the Roanoke City School Board and would cooperate with all involved interests of children and stakeholders of public education.

Mr. Eugene Elliott, 2720 Rosalind Avenue, S. W., endorsed the candidacy of David Trinkle, a geriatric psychiatrist who is highly respected in his field. He advised that Dr. Trinkle currently has two children in the Roanoke City Public Schools, he has been involved in community service by serving as President of

Mill Mountain Zoo, the Grandin Theatre fund raising campaign; a Junior Achievement volunteer in the Roanoke City school system, and a member of the site based council for Crystal Spring Elementary School. He stated that Dr. Trinkle brings a practical background to education; in his practice as a geriatric psychiatrist, he supervises a department and is involved in management on a daily basis, he routinely deals with budgets and organizational matters, and he has shown interest in public schools by seeking out administrative staff and offering suggestions. He advised that Dr. Trinkle would be a valuable addition to the Roanoke City School Board.

Dr. Elizabeth Lee, 4833 West Hill Drive, S. W., Past Principal of Patrick Henry High School, endorsed the candidacy of Gloria P. Manns for reappointment as a Trustee to the Roanoke City School Board. She called attention to Ms. Manns past experience as a School Trustee, including the position of School Board Chair; she is a graduate of Roanoke City schools, a counseling professional in private practice who owns her own business, and the parent of two graduates of Roanoke City schools. She referred to Ms. Manns strengths and wisdom in dealing with difficult challenges; she is positive, professional and creative in problem solving; she has no private agenda, but a desire to promote the welfare of Roanoke City school students; she will be equitable and caring about all youth in Roanoke's schools; she is not afraid of hard work, or long hours or the demands of making difficult decisions; she will uphold strong academic standards of learning; she understands the value of counseling services, co-curricular development, student health issues, safety concerns and budget issues; and she will do her utmost to be an informed advocate of Roanoke's youth. She urged that Council reappoint Ms. Manns to the School Board for a second three year term.

Ms. Allison Allsbrook, 4429 Rosecrest Road, S. W., endorsed the candidacy of David Trinkle in his efforts to become a member of the School Board. She called attention to numerous attributes of Dr. Trinkle that will enable him to be an asset to the School Board; he has a strong commitment to his work as a geriatric psychiatrist; not only is his intelligence evident, but the compassionate way that he works with patients and their families has enhanced the lives of countless people; in addition, his teaching and lecturing have helped to build a bridge of understanding regarding the unique challenges that older people and their families face; and his commitment to and interest in his children will help to make him a strong advocate for all children in Roanoke City. She referred to Dr. Trinkle's unwavering dedication to Roanoke and his efforts to make Roanoke a better place to live and work; he brings a common sense approach that is essential in dealing with issues of education; he has empathy and compassion to work with people from all different walks of life; he has the intelligence to see and understand complex problems, and the wisdom and perseverance to find workable solutions. She advised that allowing Dr. Trinkle to serve his community as a member of the School Board will be a gift to the children of Roanoke City and to those who value the education of children above all else.

Ms. Brenda Hale, 3595 Parkwood Drive, S. W., endorsed the candidacy of Gloria Manns for another term on the Roanoke City School Board. She advised that Ms. Manns has a long history of working with numerous organizations striving for better education of Roanoke's youth by creating an environment of inclusiveness; she is a highly skilled and professional social worker, a pioneer in the Roanoke Valley and a role model with a hallmark of success; she stands ready to serve with qualifications that are evident; and she has been an asset to the Roanoke City School Board and will continue to make a difference in the lives of Roanoke's children.

Mr. H. Clark Curtis, 1309 Guilford Avenue, N. W., endorsed the candidacy of Gloria Manns for reappointment to the Roanoke City School Board. He stated that Ms. Manns brings leadership skills, organizational skills, a calm level-headed demeanor, her social work and mental health background will add to her ability to thoroughly assess all situations, she has a good relationship with the Roanoke Education Association, she has the ability to think "outside of the box" in all situations, she is an independent thinker but also a team player, she is a product of the Roanoke City Schools, and her children graduated from Roanoke's school system.

Mr. Kenneth Robinson, 2120 Broadway Avenue, S. W., endorsed the candidacy of David Trinkle. He advised that Dr. Trinkle is highly energetic, highly motivated, and exceptionally well organized; he is the father of two children currently enrolled in the Roanoke City School system; he is extensively involved in the community, including a founding member of the Grandin Theatre Foundation, and a Past President of Mill Mountain Zoo; his psychiatric training provides the background for good listening skills and the ability to respond to and evaluate differing viewpoints; and he has been chosen to fill leadership positions in medical and community organizations.

Mr. David Hill, 2416 Wycliff Avenue, S. W., endorsed the candidacy of David Trinkle. He advised that Dr. Trinkle has held numerous leadership positions; he has dedicated his career to working with senior citizens, many of whom suffer from dementia, and without his expertise many persons in the Roanoke Valley would have to do with less able medical assistance. He stated that appointment of Dr. Trinkle to the School Board will ensure that Roanoke's children will be the beneficiaries of his life long commitment to education.

Mr. Ray Douglas, 3316 Kershaw Road, N. W., endorsed the candidacy of Gloria Manns for reappointment to the School Board. He referred to her excellent coordinating and organizing abilities, leading to productive and successful conclusions. As School Board Chair, he stated that she has provided the leadership to make all members feel included in the process; she has strong leadership and organizational skills, she operates a private counseling service and manages by objectives; she is a product of the Roanoke City Public Schools and serves as an outstanding role model.

There being no further speakers, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that all comments would be received and filed.

STREETS AND ALLEYS-YMCA: Pursuant to Resolution No. 25523 adopted by the Council on Monday, April 6, 1981, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 21, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the request of the YMCA of Roanoke Valley, Inc., that a ten foot wide alley extending in a westerly direction for 110 feet, more or less, from 5th Street, S. W., lying between parcels of land identified as Official Tax Nos. 1113417 - 1113419, inclusive, and 1113422 - 1113425, inclusive, be permanently vacated, discontinued and closed, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, April 4, 2003 and Friday, April 11, 2003.

The City Planning Commission submitted a written report advising that the petitioner requests closure and vacation of the paper alley in order to construct a family recreational facility.

The City Planning Commission recommended that Council approve the request.

Mr. Carder offered the following ordinance:

(#36287-042103) AN ORDINANCE permanently vacating, discontinuing and closing a certain public right-of-way in the City of Roanoke, Virginia, as more particularly described hereinafter; and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 67, page 198.)

Mr. Carder moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36287-042103. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler.

Daniel F. Layman, Jr., Attorney, appeared before Council in support of the request of his client.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to be heard in connection with the matter.

There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

Mr. Bestpitch advised that his spouse is employed by the YMCA of Roanoke Valley, Inc.; whereupon, the City Attorney stated that there is no conflict of interest and Mr. Bestpitch could cast his vote on the item currently under consideration and the next item on the agenda.

There being no questions/discussion by Council, Ordinance No. 36287-042103 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY PROPERTY-YMCA: Pursuant to action of the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 21, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, with regard to proposed conveyance of City-owned property located at 540 Church Avenue, S. W., identified as Official Tax No. 1113414, to the YMCA of Roanoke Valley, Inc., upon certain terms and conditions, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, April 11, 2003.

The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the YMCA of Roanoke Valley, Inc., a non-profit organization, has expressed an interest in acquiring the property on which the Jefferson Gym is located; the YMCA is in need of a new facility to accommodate its expanding number of programs and to replace the YMCA's existing facility; and the Agreement as proposed by the YMCA specifies that the City of Roanoke transfer title to the YMCA, upon certain conditions.

It was further advised that if the YMCA obtains the Jefferson Gym, it will make available some of its resources to Roanoke's youth, including staff and various fitness and safety programs, which will benefit and support the recently developed Roanoke Youth Initiative Program.

The City Manager recommended, following the public hearing, that she be authorized to execute an Agreement to be approved as to form by the City Attorney and any other documents necessary to implement terms of the Agreement.

Mr. Dowe offered the following ordinance:

(#36288-042103) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement, deed and any related and necessary documents providing for the conveyance of City-owned property located at 540 Church Avenue, S. W., and

bearing Official Tax No. 1113414, to the YMCA of Roanoke Valley, Inc., upon certain terms and conditions; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 67, page 200.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36288-042103. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to be heard in connection with the matter; whereupon, William Zazynski, Branch Director, Central YMCA, spoke in support of the conveyance of City owned property to the YMCA.

There being no further speakers, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

There being no questions/discussion by Council, Ordinance No. 36288-042103 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

TREES-COMMUNITY PLANNING: Pursuant to action of the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing on Monday, April 21, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, with regard to an amendment to Vision 2001-2020, the City's Comprehensive Plan, to include the Urban Forestry Plan, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, April 4, 2003, and Friday, April 11, 2003.

The City Planning Commission submitted a written report recommending that Council adopt, as an element of Vision 2001-2020, the Urban Forestry Plan, as amended.

Mr. Cutler offered the following ordinance:

(#36289-042103) AN ORDINANCE approving the Urban Forestry Plan, and amending Vision 2001 - 2020, the City's Comprehensive Plan, to include the Urban Forestry Plan; and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance by title.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 67, page 201.)

Mr. Cutler moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36289-042103. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to be heard in connection with the matter; whereupon, Charles Blankenship, Technical Advisor to the Urban Forestry Task Force, presented highlights of the City's Urban Forestry Program.

There being no further speakers, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

There being no further discussion, Ordinance No. 36289-042103 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

CABLE TELEVISION: Pursuant to action of the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 21, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the request of the City of Roanoke with regard to a proposed six-month extension of the Cable Television Franchise Agreement with CoxCom, Inc., d/b/a Cox Communications Roanoke, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Monday, April 7, 2003, and Monday, April 14, 2003.

The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the City of Roanoke granted a non-exclusive Cable Television Franchise to Cox Cable Roanoke, Inc., predecessor in interest to CoxCom, Inc. d/b/a Cox Communications Roanoke (Cox), pursuant to Ordinance No. 30479-42291, adopted on April 22, 1991; the Franchise was embodied in a Cable Television Franchise Agreement between the City and Cox dated May 1, 1991, and will expire on April 30, 2003; similar agreements were entered into among Cox and the County of Roanoke and the Town of Vinton; and representatives from the three jurisdictions and Cox have been negotiating terms and conditions of a renewal of the Franchise Agreement.

It was further advised that while there have been productive meetings among the staff of the three jurisdictions and Cox, additional meetings and revisions to the documents are needed in order to reach a final set of documents that can be recommended to City Council, the Roanoke County Board of

Supervisors, and Vinton Town Council; therefore, it is in the best interest of all parties to extend the current Franchise Agreement with Cox for a period of six months in order to complete the negotiation process.

The City Manager recommended that Council adopt an ordinance extending the current Franchise Agreement between the City and Cox for a period of six months, which will expire on October 31, 2003, or until a renewal Franchise is executed and approved, whichever occurs first.

Mr. Dowe offered the following ordinance:

(#36290-042103) AN ORDINANCE extending the term of a certain Cable Television Franchise Agreement, dated May 1, 1991, between the City and CoxCom, Inc. d/b/a Cox Communication Roanoke, upon certain terms and conditions; and dispensing with the second reading by title paragraph of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 67, page 203.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36290-042103. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to be heard in connection with the matter.

There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no questions/discussion by Council, Ordinance No. 36290-042103 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY CODE-ZONING: Pursuant to Resolution No. 25523 adopted by the Council on Monday, April 6, 1981, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 21, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, with regard to amendment to Section 36.1-690, General authority and procedure, Chapter 36.1, Zoning, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, to provide for reconsideration by Council of a petition to rezone pursuant to Rule 10, Section 2-15, Rules of procedure, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, April 4, 2003, and Friday, April 11, 2003.

A report of the City Planning Commission advising that the proposed amendment eliminates a perceived conflict between a procedural section of the zoning ordinance and the rules of procedure of Council as set forth in the City Code; Rule 10, Reconsideration of questions, of Section 2-15, Rules of procedure, provides that any member of City Council voting with the majority on a question may move for a reconsideration of the question at the same meeting or a succeeding meeting; Section 36.1-690(i) of the City Code provides that having once considered a petition to rezone, City Council may not reconsider substantially the same petition for one year; a recent decision by a Circuit Court Judge in the City of Roanoke invalidated Council's reconsideration pursuant to Rule 10 of a rezoning petition; and in setting aside Council's unanimous decision to grant the petition, the judge ruled that such a reconsideration was prohibited for one year by Section 36.1-690(i) of the City Code, was before the body.

It was further advised that the proposed amendment will permit reconsideration by Council of any rezoning petition, as long as such reconsideration occurs pursuant to Rule 10 of Section 2-15, Rules of procedure, of the City Code.

The City Planning Commission recommended that Council adopt the proposed amendment.

Mr. Bestpitch offered the following ordinance:

(#36291-042103) AN ORDINANCE amending and reordaining §36.1-690, General authority and procedure, of Division 5, Amendments, of Article VII, Administration, of Chapter 36.1, Zoning, of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, to provide for reconsideration by City Council of a petition under Rule 10 of Section 2-15, Rules of procedure; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 67, page 204.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36291-042103. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to be heard in connection with the matter.

There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no questions/discussion by Council, Ordinance No. 36291-042103 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

SEWERS AND STORM DRAINS-EASEMENTS: Pursuant to action of the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 21, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, with regard to a proposal to vacate a sanitary sewer easement across property located on Hidden Oak Road, S. W., identified as Official Tax Nos. 5050220 - 5050222, inclusive, upon request of the property owners, in order to facilitate development of the property, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, April 11, 2003.

The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the owners of property located on Hidden Oak Road, S. W., Official Tax Nos. 5050220, 5050221, and 5050222, have requested that the City vacate the sanitary sewer easement; Baron Enterprises of Virginia, Inc., owner of Lots 1 and 2, and James and Carol Sexton, owners of Lot 3, have requested vacation inasmuch as the existing sewer easement will interfere with development of the parcels of land; and the subject easement is no longer needed since the sanitary sewer located in the easement has been relocated to the public street right-of-way of Hidden Oak Road and the plat has been reviewed by and is acceptable to the City Engineer.

The City Manager recommended, following the public hearing, that she be authorized to execute the appropriate documents vacating the existing sewer easement; and owners of the property will be responsible for preparation of all necessary documents, to be approved as to form by the City Attorney.

Mr. Cutler offered the following ordinance:

(#36292-042103) AN ORDINANCE authorizing vacation of a sanitary sewer easement across property identified by Official Tax Nos. 5050220, 5050221, and 5050222, and more commonly known as 3121, 3125 and 3129 Hidden Oak Road, S. W., upon certain terms and conditions; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 67, page 205.)

Mr. Cutler moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36292-042103. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to be heard in connection with the matter.

There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no questions/discussion by Council, Ordinance No. 36292-042103 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Harris, Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for response, report and recommendation to Council.

POLICE DEPARTMENT-ANIMALS/INSECTS-BUDGET-COMPLAINTS-FIRE DEPARTMENT-TAXES: Ms. Helen E. Davis, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., addressed Council on behalf of senior citizens who will be impacted by proposed tax increases in the City's fiscal year 2004 budget, and advised that the budget needs scrutiny as it relates to senior citizens.

She expressed concern with regard to the remarks of several citizens at the Monday, April 7, 2003 Council meeting in which it was reported that a dog was shot by a City Animal Control Officer; however, no referral was made by Council to the City Manager for report. (It was pointed out by Council Member Bestpitch that matters requiring referral under Hearing of Citizens are automatically referred to the City Manager for report.)

Ms. Davis inquired if plans for Roanoke's fire stations, predominately those fire stations located in the black neighborhoods, will be presented as a part of the Council's fiscal year 2004 budget public hearing on Thursday, May 1, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., in the Exhibit Hall at the Roanoke Civic Center.

POLICE DEPARTMENT-BUDGET-CITY COUNCIL-CITY EMPLOYEES: Mr. Robert Gravely, 3360 Hershberger Road, N. W., expressed concern with regard to the community in general and the City of Roanoke as a whole. He stated that Council Members should serve on a full-time basis in order to fully understand the needs of the City. He referred to "big city crime" in the City of Roanoke on a "small time" pay scale. He expressed concern with regard to the City Manager's recommendation to eliminate City work force jobs in order to balance the fiscal year 2004 budget, the plight of the poor and disadvantaged in Roanoke, and the need to create more job opportunities for Roanoke's citizens which will lead to a decrease in crime.

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT-CITY EMPLOYEES-GRANTS-ROANOKE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP: Mr. Carl Cooper, 2001 Angus Road, N. W., advised that the Roanoke Neighborhood Partnership Steering Committee nominated Mr. Alan Gleiner to receive the Shining Star Award in recognition of his assistance in providing a permanent record of the visit to Roanoke by Ian Lockwood, a nationally recognized traffic consultant. He expressed appreciation to the City Manager for allowing City staff to work with the Roanoke Neighborhood Partnership Steering Committee regarding the use and application of grants for training in connection with community needs.

At 8:35 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess until Thursday, April 24, 2003, at 4:30 p.m., in the City Council Chamber, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., for six interviews for appointments to the Roanoke City School Board.

Monday, April 21, 2003, regular meeting of Roanoke City Council which was recessed until Thursday, April 24, 2003, was called to order at 4:30 p.m., in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor Ralph K. Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members C. Nelson Harris, Linda F. Wyatt, William D. Bestpitch, M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----6.

ABSENT: Council Member William H. Carder-----1.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

SCHOOL BOARD APPLICANTS PRESENT: Kathy G. Stockburger, F. B. Webster Day, David B. Trinkle, Tiffany M. Johnson, Dennis M. Binns and Gloria P. Manns.

The invocation was delivered by Mayor Smith.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Smith.

SCHOOLS: The Mayor advised that on June 30, 2003, the three year terms of office of F. B. Webster Day, Gloria P. Manns and Marsha W. Ellison as Trustees of the Roanoke City School Board will expire; Ms. Ellison is ineligible to serve another term inasmuch as she has served three consecutive three-year terms of office; and the purpose of the reconvened meeting is to interview six candidates for the three positions on the Roanoke City School Board for terms of office commencing July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2006.

He further advised that past actions of the Council to comply with the School Board selection process include:

At regular meetings of the City Council held on January 21 and February 3, Council announced its intention to elect Trustees to the Roanoke City School Board for terms commencing July 1, 2003.

Advertisements were placed in *The Roanoke Times* and in *The Roanoke Tribune* inviting applications for the vacancies. Nine applications were received in the City Clerk's Office prior to the deadline on Monday, March 10, 2003.

At the regular meeting of City Council on March 17, 2003, at 2:00 p.m., Council reviewed and considered all applications.

At the regular meeting of City Council on Monday, April 7, 2003, at 2:00 p.m., Council voted to interview Dennis M. Binns, F. B. Webster Day, Tiffany M. Johnson, Gloria P. Manns, Kathy G. Stockburger, and David B. Trinkle for the three vacancies.

A notice was published in *The Roanoke Times* inviting attendance at a public hearing to be held by City Council on Monday, April 21, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., to receive the views of citizens regarding School Board applicants, and further inviting the public to submit proposed questions to the candidates by filing such written questions in the City Clerk's Office; however, no questions were submitted.

The Mayor explained that the selection process provides that Council will publicly interview each candidate separately and out of the presence and hearing of the other candidates; and the following interviews have been scheduled:

| | | |
|-----------|---|----------------------|
| 4:30 p.m. | - | Kathy G. Stockburger |
| 5:00 p.m. | - | F. B. Webster Day |
| 5:30 p.m. | - | David B. Trinkle |
| 6:00 p.m. | - | Tiffany M. Johnson |
| 6:30 p.m. | | Dennis M. Binns |
| 7:00 p.m. | | Gloria P. Manns |

The Mayor pointed out that each candidate will be given the opportunity to make an opening statement of not more than five minutes; and thereafter, Council may ask such questions as the Council, in its discretion, deems advisable.

He advised that Council will hold six interviews and each interview will consist of approximately 30 minutes; after each interview has been completed, the candidate may leave the Council Chamber inasmuch as no action will be taken by the Council, and all interviews will be taped by RVT Channel 3 to be televised on April 29 at 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., and April 30 at 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

In conclusion, the Mayor advised that at the regular meeting of Council on Monday, May 5, 2003, at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, Council will hold an election to fill the three vacancies on the Roanoke City School Board for terms commencing July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2006.

The first person to be interviewed was Ms. Kathy G. Stockburger.

Ms. Stockburger expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be interviewed. She asked, what happens when a child from a public housing project is challenged and given a strong academic and social foundation by her local public schools, what is the result when this child is encouraged to excel far beyond her perceived means and the expectations of the community, and what impact does this have on the child and on the community. She stated that these are not rhetorical questions, but pertain to her and her four brothers who grew up in the Lansdale Public Housing Project in Norfolk, Virginia, and attended Norfolk City Schools from first grade through 12th grade. She further stated that she was gifted with two parents who, although they could not provide a lot of material wealth for their family, did provide a huge amount of support for the learning that was required in school and that foundation prepared her to attend college to the doctoral level. She advised that she is committed to public schools and would like to return the investment; she has three children who grew up in Roanoke City Schools from kindergarten through 12th grade; they have attended colleges throughout the state; she is proud of the foundation that was laid for her children; and she and her husband have always considered themselves to be partners in their children's education and did not expect the school system to be solely accountable for their success. She added that her involvement in the Parent Teacher Associations, the classroom, and boards of organizations which collaborate with the City schools have provided her with a wider view of the school system and an appreciation for the complexity of issues that public schools face. She called attention to at least three constants about schools; i.e.: everyone has a "gripe", everyone is an expert, and everyone has been a student at some point. She stated that her experience has made her aware of certain general areas where Roanoke's schools might improve; i.e.: a continuing need to expand access and opportunities to all children as realistic options; a need to continue to explore how poverty impacts student success; and the expectation that parents, guardians and extended family members must be involved in the education process, with the provision of realistic avenues for parental involvement. She stated that she does not have an agenda, but comes with an open mind, a reputation as an independent thinker, 30 years of professional experience working with non-profit organizations; strategic planning, board development and conflict resolution are three areas in which she has particular expertise; and her diverse experiences and ability to deal with all kinds of people will be an asset to the School Board. She added that issues to be addressed by the School Board will often be difficult and frequently unpopular with some, but reaching reasonable decisions, after becoming well informed, will go far in avoiding damage control because the buck stops with the School Board. She

called attention to the importance of the School Board and Council working together as partners and never losing sight of the fact that all their work is devoted to the student, and the partnership circle must widen to include faculty, administration, parents, guardians and the community. She addressed the need to hold one another accountable for their respective functions in the school system, whether it be students, teachers, administrators or the School Board whose primary concern is to govern.

Mr. Bestpitch advised that since he would be leaving the meeting following the third interview, out of fairness to all applicants, he would not ask questions.

Dr. Cutler asked the following question:

When you became interested in applying for the School Board, you must have had something specific in mind that caused you to take on this major responsibility. What kind of issues, potential changes, or emphases do you have in mind after a certain period of time, in order to assess your level of success?

Ms. Stockburger advised that she has a great deal of energy that will be directed in general toward improving Roanoke's current school system, and not remaking something from the ground up. She stated that her children have gone through the Roanoke City Public Schools, she has been impressed with their level of education, although that is not to say there is not room for improvement; and she does not have a personal agenda, but she has certain ideas that she would like to explore, one of which is more involvement by parents and guardians in the learning experience. For example, she stated that she grew up in a housing project and one of the reasons that mothers did not attend parent-teacher conferences was because they did not have the proper clothing, therefore, the question is, how do we make it more comfortable and accessible for parents, grandparents and extended families who need to be involved in the learning experience by providing a realistic and non-threatening environment. She called attention to the need to raise recognition among parents and students as to programs that currently exist and recruitment for participation in programs with vacancies, all of which can be done through better communications. She stated that enhanced communication on all levels is an improvement that is needed.

Vice-Mayor Harris asked the following question:

What are your thoughts relative to student discipline which is an issue of classroom management and parental comfort in sending children to public schools?

Ms. Stockburger advised her thoughts on the subject crystallized more clearly earlier today upon hearing the tragic news of a death in Pennsylvania where an eighth grade student shot the principal and himself, which is not necessarily a discipline issue, but there is sometimes a tendency to lump all

school violence issues into the category discipline, and the teacher is often held accountable for disciplining the student. She stated that when a random act of violence occurs, whether it be in the school or on the street corner, the first thought is to separate what is actually a discipline issue from something that is either larger or smaller, then communicate clearly to all stakeholders as to the appropriate limits. She advised that the model should be through parenting and if there is a consequence, all parties should know what the consequence is in order to fairly implement the consequence; if consequences vary in different schools and at different levels of the school division, it is difficult to be fair; therefore, there is a need for clarity of expectation and consistency in implementation relating to disciplinary issues.

Ms. Wyatt asked the following question:

Do you think the current process of using the City's Audit Department is effective, or would it be more beneficial for the School Board to employ its own outside independent auditors?

Ms. Stockburger advised that several improvements can be made in the way that audits are performed, but whatever improvements are enacted, there must be clear lines of communication between the School administration, the School Board and the Council than currently exist, and stakeholders should not read about issues in the newspaper, but should be briefed early on. She called attention to the need to look at the advantages and disadvantages of several different methods to audit; however, whatever direction is chosen, it is not so much a question of whether a change is needed in the way audits are conducted, but should a more fundamental change be made in the way issues are communicated to the public.

Mr. Dowe asked the following question:

What are the qualities of a good School Superintendent?

Ms. Stockburger responded that a good Superintendent is an individual who is willing to work collaboratively with all involved parties in the educational process, which is the one way to ensure success. She stated that a person can collaborate if they can communicate openly and effectively with all parties and if decisions are made that do not have their preferred outcome. She added that the partnership between the Superintendent, the School Board and the Council is critical, because without being able to collaborate, a lot of energy and money will be expended, while not reaching a level of excellence in education. She stated that other qualities of a good school superintendent would include intelligence, the ability to problem solve creatively, and a person who is thrifty.

The Mayor asked the following question:

Some previous School Boards have been more of a “rubber stamp” body than persons who are willing to contribute their individual views. What are your thoughts on the subject?

Ms. Stockburger advised that she works with non-profit organizations, involving strategic planning and board development, and a board’s role is to govern and to set policy which is a difficult and sometimes unpopular job, and all parties should have the self assurance that it is acceptable to disagree as long as positions are justified. She added that another way to enhance a board, working together as a team, is to provide a venue in which people feel comfortable in a formal setting of disagreeing with respect. She called attention to her background in conflict resolution and noted that an element to resolving conflict is to identify issues, because sometimes solutions are formed before issues are clearly articulated, which is a waste of time and money. She stated that it would be hoped that a board could work together, disagree, but clearly identify the issues and the necessary outcomes, because if the School Board loses sight of the interest of the student, all is for naught. She advised that the student should be the focus or the crystallizing point for divergent views that need to be negotiated.

The second person to be interviewed was F. B. Webster Day

Mr. Day advised that public service can impact on family life and personal employment; he has a law practice that provides the flexibility to serve on the School Board, along with law partners who value public service. He stated from 1997 to 2000, he served on the School Board, and following his departure from the Board, he continued to be interested in the education of Roanoke’s children; he served as a site based counselor at Patrick Henry High School, on the School Board’s Safety Advisory Committee, and in 2002, he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Sherman Lea, the rationale being that someone with experience would be able to be of immediate help to the School Board; and he is now seeking reappointment for a full three year term. He referred to the range of opportunities and challenges that the School Board will face over the next three years; i.e.: the relocation of the Roanoke Academy of Mathematics and Science to its new facilities, the renovation of Patrick Henry High School in 2004, graduating seniors will be the first class to be required to meet stricter diploma requirements that were instituted with the Standards of Learning, the likelihood that State funding for public education will be less than adequate requiring the School Board to continue to stretch the dollar and to work with Council to ensure that programs are adequately funded and employees are adequately, fairly and competitively paid, and schools must be fully accredited under the Standards of Learning accreditation by 2007. He stated that he is seeking reappointment to the School Board in order to be a part of these exciting and challenging times.

Dr. Cutler asked the following question:

How can the relationship between the School Board and City Council be optimized?

Mr. Day stated that historically the relationship between the two bodies has been good, although there is always room for improvement; and both Council and the School Board have worked well in the past, along with the two administrations, which is something that the citizens of Roanoke should be proud of. He stated that the joint workshops between Council and the School Board have been beneficial, the “buddy system” has worked well and should continue, and serving on the Legislative Committee has provided him with good insight into the matters that Council attempts to address.

Vice-Mayor Harris asked the following question:

What are your thoughts relative to the issue of student discipline?

Mr. Day stated that schools are basically safe places, however, it is necessary that the schools not only be safe, but be perceived as safe, particularly with budget issues and those hard decisions that have to be made regarding student resource officers and the best way to deploy scarce resources. He stated that it is a struggle to maintain uniform, but fair application of the standards of expectation relating to classroom discipline; and both teachers and principals must have the authority to deal with discipline problems.

Ms. Wyatt asked the following question:

Do you think that the current process of using the City’s Audit Department is effective, or would it be more beneficial for the School Board to employ its own outside independent auditors?

Mr. Day responded that the current process is effective and has worked well; in the past; the process has provided both the School administration and the School Board with much needed information about how things can be done better; and audits have uncovered certain things that should not have happened. He stated that under the current audit process, when a draft audit report is prepared, the Freedom of Information Act requires the draft audit become public, while in certain instances it may be premature for the document to become public at that point.

Mr. Dowe asked the following question:

Describe the qualities of a good School Superintendent.

Mr. Day called attention to the number of hats that a School Superintendent is expected to wear; i.e.: cheerleader, administrator, educator, and direct seven School Board members at the same time. Therefore, he stated that the position calls for a person who is dedicated to public education with the skills to articulate their vision.

Dr. Cutler asked the following question:

What is your perspective on the value of the career technical education curriculum in Roanoke's high schools? Can the curriculum be improved or strengthened?

Mr. Day advised that career technical education in the school system, although a necessary component, may not be right for every child. He called attention to the need for a public relations campaign in order to overcome the perception that career technical education is strictly vocational education, when, in fact, courses include high tech material. He referred to the Blue Ridge Technical Academy which is an innovative program and with the decrease in funding, the School Board is trying to keep the program intact. He advised of the need for balance in any type of vocational education and the desire to educate students leading to gainful employment, and while the school system should not teach to the test in pure academic areas, it should also resist the temptation to train just for the local job market. He stated that his philosophy is that the school system should train and educate students so that they can go anywhere in the world and seek employment, which will favorably reflect on the City's economic development by encouraging businesses to locate and to fill jobs in Roanoke, as well as other opportunities. He stated that the training and the base knowledge must exist in order to encourage students to become life-long learners.

Mayor Smith asked the following question:

My life experiences have taught me that whether it be a corporate board, a Council or a School Board, the best way to have success is to bring a number of bright minds together, each willing to express their individual views and philosophies, and out of that comes greater success. Please elaborate on that statement.

Mr. Day concurred in the Mayor's statement and advised that when there are people who are willing to listen before they talk, who are willing to talk and advance their views, and where there is honest give and take communications, progress will be made. He stated that during discussions with fellow School Board members, different points of view will be expressed, however, it is critical that School Board members feel free to communicate in a free flowing give and take environment.

Ms. Wyatt asked the following question:

What is your perception of the relationship of the School Superintendent with his central staff, administrative staff, building administrators, teachers and support staff?

Mr. Day stated that the Superintendent sets the tone, delegates and oversees responsibilities, therefore, the buck stops with the Superintendent in the chain of command; and it is imperative that central administrators be intelligent, hard-working and provide support to the Superintendent, particularly in a school system as large as Roanoke's with its varied responsibilities and programs. He referred to the quality of staff in central administration and building operations, all working in conjunction with a Superintendent who oversees the entire operation. He stated that the relationship between the Superintendent, central staff, administrative staff, building staff, teachers and support staff is good, the Superintendent has set a good example, his input and response to the Standards of Learning by requiring biennial plans was a positive move, and there are always issues that need to be worked out, but overall, relationships with the School Superintendent are good.

Mayor Smith asked the following question:

Sometimes there are good relationships and sometimes there are success relationships, which are defined in different ways. I am not hearing enough divergent views from the present School Board. What is your reaction to this statement?

Mr. Day stated that divergent views are expressed at each School Board meeting; however, when the School Board speaks, it can only speak with one voice, since a four to three vote wins as much as a seven to zero vote; therefore, when the School Board sets policy, which is its primary purpose, it speaks with one voice.

The third person to be interviewed was David B. Trinkle

Dr. Trinkle advised that it was a great honor and pleasure to apply for a position on the School Board; and he applied for the position out of a desire to participate more actively in his community, but specifically in the School system which is Roanoke's greatest asset. He stated that any School system, teachers, administrators, students, and parents, are at the core of the success, and provide the vitality and growth of any community; and fortunately Roanoke City Council is aware of the value of the School system and has actively supported Roanoke's School system in many ways. He advised that he did not apply for appointment out of a sense that something is wrong with the School system, but with a desire to improve on current successes. He stated that he is fully aware of the many challenges facing Roanoke's school system, such as budget needs, funding cutbacks, safety and violence, child health issues, longer school days versus year round school, continued implementation of standardized testing, adequate

athletics and facilities, new performance assessment models, salaries, benefits, special needs, gifted programs, and the list is ongoing. He added that he hopes to bring a new face with a strong background in medicine, psychiatry, mental health, teaching and administration to the School Board; and specifically, he would like to help the School Board to be more open, to communicate with citizens more effectively, and to improve morale among those employed in the School system. He stated that one of the greatest challenges facing the School system and the School Board today is the need to foster and to promote the diversity and innovative programming found in Roanoke's School system in the face of standardized requirements without creating disparities among different schools; to encourage early faculty development programs and to assure that assessment tools for students and faculty alike are generated and interpreted the same throughout the school system. He listed credentials that will help him to be a good School Board member; i.e.: Medical Director at Carilion Center for Healthy Aging, an active participant in budget issues, development of new system wide programs and evaluation of existing programs, a member of several committees for the health system, liaison for physicians, administrators, patients and families, an active participant in Carilion's medical education program through teaching, developing curriculums, developing and implementing standardized assessment tools for students and faculty, medical research and writing, grant writing, faculty development, and a regional and national speaker at numerous accredited programs and medical education programs. He stated that the success of these programs lies in the ability to bring people together from different aspects of a larger system; to value their input and to coordinate goals and objectives of each program; to implement effective teaching and to evaluate outcomes so as to improve future programs. He added that these experiences will set him apart from other candidates and serve him well as a potential School Board member; in addition, he stated that he has served on and led numerous community and professional organizations in the Roanoke Valley and elsewhere; he has been involved in major capital campaigns, an active role in his state professional society required ongoing work with legislators, administrators, professionals and Virginia consumers of care as well as citizens; and his role as listener, effective communicator and a person who would bring different voices to the table in order to make difficult but sound decisions would serve him well as a member of Roanoke's School Board. He explained that he is currently involved in the School system through the Crystal Spring Site Based Council and as an active parent in his child's education; he is aware of many of the issues currently facing the school system and could become familiar with School Board issues quickly if appointed; he is excited and enthusiastic about the prospects of joining the School Board; he is prepared for the time commitments, hard work, and difficult decisions that will be required; and he will be dedicated to being available and to listening to the voices from all diverse and varied aspects of the School system and the community at large.

Vice-Mayor Harris asked the following question:

What are your thoughts with regard to student discipline in the Roanoke City Public Schools relative to classroom management, and the parental comfort level in sending children to City schools?

Dr. Trinkle advised that concerns have centered around implementing discipline fairly and uniformly, which is difficult because every case is different in terms of the called for disciplinary measure and the child's behavior. He stated that educating parents and teachers can be effective, and interpretation of the rules and guidelines regarding discipline for principals should be effectively and uniformly implemented among the various schools. He added that discipline could also relate to a child health issue and in some instances may require further testing, special needs, and the availability to intervene either medically or behaviorally in terms of repeated behavior. In summary, he stated that it is important to interpret and to enforce discipline in a uniform and consistent manner and to provide the level of education and support that families need.

Ms. Wyatt asked the following question:

Do you think that the current process of using the City's Audit Department is effective for the school system, or would it be more beneficial for the School Board to employ its own outside, independent auditor?

Mr. Trinkle advised that he would need more information in order to respond to the question appropriately.

Mr. Dowe asked the following question:

What are the characteristics of a good school superintendent?

Dr. Trinkle advised that a good superintendent should be a well-educated and experienced individual who has had experience with school systems and in the administration of school systems, who has an awareness of the size and type of school system existing in Roanoke, as well as an awareness of the Roanoke Valley and the community at large. He stated that he would favor a person who is personable, who is available, who has good listening skills, who is a good communicator and lets one know where he or she stands on an issue.

Dr. Cutler asked the following question:

What is your view of the relationship of the School Superintendent and the School Board? How would you obtain additional information beyond that which is given to you by the Superintendent and his immediate staff? Do you see opportunities to get feedback from parents, teachers, citizens, etc.?

Mr. Trinkle advised that as a result of previous experiences on other boards, he has found that allied organizations, some with very different interests but serving similar circumstances, can be influential in gaining additional information. He stated that he was not aware any venue for this purpose, although he would value input by the Roanoke Education Association as a learning resource. He called attention to his involvement with other organizations within the school system, such as Parent- Teacher Associations and similar organizations.

Mayor Smith asked the following question:

My experience in life has been, whether it be a corporate board, or City Council, or the School Board, when bright people come together and each are willing to express their individual views, out of the process comes ideas and proposals. There have been hints in the past that some School Boards have been “rubber stamp” bodies. What are your views?

Mr. Trinkle stated that with the quality of people currently serving on the School Board and the quality of applicants under consideration, new members would be brought together with different backgrounds, interests and ideas, and by communicating around concerns, consensus will be reached. He added that it is hoped that the School Board would be more than just a “rubber stamp”; and a good School Board member requires energy, enthusiasm and education in order to learn about issues and the position of those outside the school system. He stated that a lot of time is required to serve on the School Board, the School Board deals with many complicated issues and the Board should not rebel rouse or create issues, but should be available, noticeable and seek out information to reach decisions that are not perceived as a “rubber stamp”. As a School Board member, he added that it would be exciting to serve as a liaison with other parts of the school system and to learn about other issues.

Ms. Wyatt asked the following question:

What is your perception of the relationship of the current Superintendent with his central administrative staff, building administrators, teachers, and support staff?

Mr. Trinkle advised that he had heard concerns regarding site based administration which is not completely centralized, and there can be disparities on interpretation, benefits, time off, outcomes, portfolios, teacher assessment tools, and budget decisions among the different schools, which could lead to morale issues among employees. He stated that site based management creates innovative programs and diversity; however, there should be some assurance that there are no great disparities among facilities or teachers.

The fourth person to be interviewed was Ms. Tiffany M. Johnson

Ms. Johnson advised that she is a City resident and a registered voter and she is seeking a position on the School Board because of her love of education and her concern for students and staff.

Ms. Wyatt asked the following question:

What is your perception of the relationship of the Superintendent with his central administrative staff, building administrators, teachers, and support staff?

Ms. Johnson called attention to an incident regarding school transportation that was satisfactorily addressed by the Superintendent and the administrative staff.

Mr. Dowe asked the following question:

What are the characteristics of a good School Superintendent?

Ms. Johnson stated that the Superintendent should be a Roanoke City resident; his credentials should be education-related and not political, with prior experience working in a school system, and the Superintendent should maintain an active role in the life of the community.

Dr. Cutler asked the following question:

What special interest or concern prompted you to seek a position on the School Board?

Ms. Johnson responded that teacher preparation and credentials are important issues, along with the hiring process, and accountability within the school system.

Vice-Mayor Harris asked the following question:

What are your thoughts with regard to student discipline?

Ms. Johnson advised that acceptable guidelines should be provided throughout the school system and provided to parents and guardians.

Mayor Smith asked the following question:

If you could change one thing about Roanoke's school system to better prepare our young people for the job market, what would you change?

Ms. Johnson responded that there should be more co-op programs working in conjunction with the schools; and students would learn more and be more prone to stay in school if a hands on approach between consumers and employers is encouraged.

At 6:10 p.m., Council Member Dowe left the meeting.

The fifth person to be interviewed was Mr. Dennis M. Binns:

Mr. Binns advised that he applied for the School Board not because of the prestige that the position carries, but out of a genuine interest to suggest changes in Roanoke's current educational system. He stated that he moved to the Roanoke area out of concern for his daughter who believed that her children were not grasping the primary skills of mathematics, reading and writing offered by Roanoke's school system; and he has been tutoring his grandchildren since his arrival. He called attention to concerns expressed by other parents who are unhappy with the school system, therefore, he took a proactive approach and began meeting with other parents and teachers to discuss issues such as safety and police presence in the schools, lack of communication between teachers and parents, parental involvement, and the teaching curriculum. He called attention to two programs used by other schools around the country which are dramatically improving test scores and encouraging children to learn; i.e.: Hooked on Phonics and Where There is a Will There is an A, and if elected to the School Board, he would encourage the School administration to look at these programs as learning tools for Roanoke's school system. He stated that Roanoke should benchmark with other localities in order to draw a consensus as to what is working throughout the nation; communication is important because rules and procedures that are incorporated into the school system are being interpreted differently by the schools; and the Roanoke Education Association provides many years of experience in education and the School Board should call on their expertise to strengthen school programs. He advised that he is a "trouble shooter", he looks for weaknesses, wastes and strengths in programs, then sets up a plan to build a formidable base through research and networking to ensure that all areas are addressed before establishing a plan of action. He added that he is detail oriented and results driven, he exhibits a hands on approach which is important to ensure that tasks are completed on time and correctly, and he leaves projects and programs in a stronger and more efficient condition than they were before his involvement. He advised that he retired from the military in 1999, having performed various responsibilities such as support manager, entertainment director, physical security director, drug testing director, program manager, project manager, government liaison, multi-facilities director, safety manager, and he currently serves as Project Coordinator for the City of Roanoke in the Fleet Management Department. In conclusion, he stated that the

School Board is accountable not only to the City Council, but more importantly to the parents and students of the school system; it is the School Board's duty to ensure safety and to provide a strong curriculum and sound education for the future leaders of the country.

Vice-Mayor Harris asked the following questions:

What characteristics would you look for and value in a School Superintendent?

Mr. Binns advised the School Superintendent should be deeply involved in education, with a Masters Degree in a field of education; and the individual should be concerned about students, the curriculum, and willing to look at the entire school system with an eye toward improving test scores.

What are your thoughts in the broad area of student discipline?

Mr. Binns stated students need to know that the school administration is concerned about their safety, there should be police presence or security in the schools, teachers should have better control over students, and parents should be more actively involved in disciplining their children.

Dr. Cutler asked the following question:

As a School Trustee, how would you stay well informed? Would you settle for information provided by the Superintendent and the immediate staff, or would you have other ways to find out what is going on within the school system? Would you visit the classroom, would you find ways to communicate with teachers and parents, what sources of information would you seek to become a well informed School Board member?

Mr. Binns stated that he would talk with the school administration, but his primary focus would be on parents, teachers, and students who have the highest level of concern. He advised that he would also seek information via the Internet, the public library, Parent-Teacher Associations, and the Roanoke Education Association.

Ms. Wyatt asked the following question:

What is your perception of the relationship of the School Superintendent with central administrative staff, building level staff, administrators, teachers, and support staff?

Mr. Binns stated that he is not familiar with any of the relationships; however, if appointed to the School Board, he would address uniformity of procedures and regulations throughout all of Roanoke's schools.

Mayor Smith asked the following question:

What one thing would you prefer to change in order to better prepare Roanoke's young people to enter the world and the job market?

Mr. Binns advised that he would work to improve the curriculum in order to formulate a plan to improve test scores so that by the time students reach their senior year in high school, they would have a valid selection of colleges to choose from in order to further their education:

The sixth and final person to be interviewed was Ms. Gloria P. Manns:

Ms. Manns advised that she is seeking reappointment to the School Board out of an interest to pursue academic excellence for all students; and Roanoke's schools and principals are working diligently with the Central Council PTA to increase parental involvement, as well as community involvement in the schools on an ongoing basis. She stated that she has the ability to hear what is not being said; to ensure that all children experience a sense of inclusion which will enhance their ability to excel in meeting their educational goals; and many children are bused to different neighborhoods and it is important that they feel they are a part of the learning environment. She added that Roanoke City has a very good school system, but there is always room for improvement; she has had the privilege as a School Board member and as a therapist to offer her services to the school system as Chairman of the Board during the past year; she is an independent thinker who possesses the ability to think "out of box"; she is a team player; as Chairwoman, she has involved School Board members in strategic activities by employing the expertise of individual Board members; and she has tried to maintain a calm and open environment in an effort to learn from each other and to mature as School Board members, while respectfully agreeing to disagree. She stated that she has enjoyed a positive and respectful relationship with the School Superintendent; and she has benefited from the "buddy" system between Council and the School Board. She called attention to a group of professionals that she was instrumental in establishing, known as the Advocates, who address issues such as mental health services, youth services, court services, social services, and the school system. She stated that if reappointed to the School Board, she would like to continue to look at the cultural diversity and socio-economic disparities in Roanoke's schools, the recruitment of more minority teachers, because with 60 plus ethnic groups in Roanoke's school system, there is a need for better representation; more internal upward mobility of staff to administrative positions is needed; and the School Board/Administration should continue to work toward improving Roanoke's School system. She advised that a positive in being appointed to a School Board is the opportunity to do what is "right" rather than what is "popular", and the position allows School Board members to be less subjective and more objective in weighing the merits of issues.

Dr. Cutler asked the following question:

How can the relationship between City Council and the School Board be optimized?

Ms. Manns called attention to the need for the two bodies to continue to work together, and to listen to each other, to plan agenda items well in advance of joint meetings, to continue to participate in the Council/School Board “buddy” system, and to continue holding annual Council/School Board retreats.

Mr. Wyatt asked the following questions:

Do you think that the current process of using the City’s Audit Department is effective, or would it be more beneficial for the School Board to employ its own outside independent auditors?

Ms. Manns supported the current system which creates a certain amount of objectivity and noted that if the School Board selected its own auditing firm, it could be said that the firm was biased in its findings, which would defeat the entire purpose of an audit. She stated that there is a good relationship with the Municipal Auditor’s Department and the School Board’s Audit Committee.

What is your perception of the relationship of the Superintendent with central administrative staff, building level administrators, teachers and support staff?

Ms. Manns advised that she has more knowledge of the Superintendent’s relationship with his central administrative staff where there appears to be a sense of loyalty and a good working relationship.

Vice-Mayor Harris asked the following questions:

What qualifications would you look for in the selection of a School Superintendent?

Ms. Manns called attention to the need to ensure that the person is educationally proficient, can relate well to all four quadrants of the City, would establish a good working relationship with the School Board, central administration and building staff, etc., a clear vision that is not necessarily the total vision of the School Board to ensure that Roanoke’s children receive the best possible education, seek out and apply innovative ideas for grant applications, and be open minded with good people skills and community skills.

What are your views with regard to student discipline?

Ms. Manns advised that children do not learn unless they are in a clean and safe environment and they want discipline and structure. She stated that consistency in discipline is important; it is also important to look at the reasons for discipline problems which could involve too many children in the classroom, does the instructor need an assistant, what is going on in the child's home, an understanding of the population that is served; and parents should be held more accountable for the actions of their children. She advised that another contributing factor is that schools are not open during evening hours and there may be a need to flex the time of guidance counselors so that they are available to parents.

Mayor Smith asked the following question:

If you could pick one thing you would change in the City's school system to better prepare young people for the world of work, what would you change?

Ms. Manns stated that she would look at the more individualized needs of the children, such as learning and social needs, in order to tap into individual strengths that could lead to success for the child.

The Mayor advised that on May 5, 2003 at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, Council will elect three Trustees to the Roanoke City School Board for terms commencing July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2006.

There being no further business, at 6:45 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

Mary F. Parker
City Clerk

Ralph K. Smith
Mayor